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# The Brooklyn Paper

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Jimmy Johnson is crying fowl after the city seized the chickens from the Narrows Botanical Garden coop late last month.

## FOWL PLAY

### City plucks up by snatching Ridge chickens

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it fowl play. Acting on a tip, a Parks Department officer smashed the locks at a Bay Ridge botanical garden and seized six chickens — only to later discover that the cluckers were part of a kids' program, not a pack of pests. "She made a horrible mistake, but how could I stop her?" said Jimmy Johnson, a garden landscaper, who was at

Narrows Botanical Garden for the raid. "It was tragic." The chicken caper began after a neighbor — whom workers say has it out for the Garden — complained to the city that the hens were "kept improperly" and are diseased. Rather than investigate, the Parks officer swiped the "big, fat beautiful chickens" with no cause, explained Johnson, then took them to an animal shelter, where they were adopted by a family in Red Hook. A horrified Johnson then phoned Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey to demand his babies back. The commissioner reviewed the case and decided that the garden had good reason to cry fowl: The city had

See FOWL on page 9

## RATNER-KRUGER LINK

### Bruce dealt with scandal-tarred senator

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

The biggest developer in the borough — whose Atlantic Yards project is the biggest in Brooklyn history — is now linked to the biggest pay-to-play story in years. Federal wiretaps show that a lobbyist for Forest City Ratner, which is building the Barclays Center arena as part of the 16-tower apartment and retail complex, paid hundreds of thou-

sands in bribes to state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Brighton Beach), the former Finance Committee powerhouse. The lobbyist, Richard Lipsky, was charged by federal prosecutors with Kruger and several others last week, for his role in the scandal, which included funneling \$252,000 to Kruger, who in turn provided state funding to projects being developed by Forest City and other clients. No one from Forest City was indi-

cated or charged — and it is unclear if the company knew what Lipsky was allegedly doing. But Forest City Vice President Bruce Bender was caught on the federal wiretap negotiating with Kruger, who has steered millions in state money to the \$4-billion project. "I love you. I really do, actually," Bender told Kruger on Dec. 28, 2010, after the senator pledged to allocate

See LINK on page 10

### Arrested pol staying put

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

State Sen. Carl Kruger says he's going to continue serving the people of Southern Brooklyn despite federal charges that could earn him up to 120 years in the Big House — and land

See KRUGER on page 10



Councilman Steve Levin is thrilled that his stolen, 11-year-old Honda Civic is back.

## Civic minded

### Councilman gets 11-year-old Honda back — dents and all!

By Laura Gottesdiener  
The Brooklyn Paper

Reunited — and it feels so good! Councilman Steve Levin (D-Brooklyn Heights) got back behind the wheel of his beloved — but stolen — 11-year-old Honda Civic on Friday morning, two weeks after it was swiped from near his Monitor Street home on the same day that his district office was also burglarized. "I'm thrilled," he said. "The car has such sentimental value." The antediluvian auto went

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missing on Feb. 26 from a spot near Meeker Avenue in Greenpoint at the beginning of a very bad weekend for the councilman. At the same time he found out about the carjacking, Levin was informed that a thief had broken into his Boerum Hill office and tried to steal a flat-screen TV and

two computer monitors. The nearly simultaneous crimes smacked of a Levin-gate conspiracy, but the police determined that the crimes were unrelated to each other — and to political shenanigans. The alleged office thief, Louis Adule, 22, is being tried for burglary and petty larceny, but the auto theft was declared a lost cause. "That s—t is gone," one of Levin's staffers said soon after the incident. Hondas are often stolen and later sold for parts, explained 94th Precinct Deputy Inspector Terence Hurson. Levin's was only one of eight cars swiped in the precinct last month — and most were Hondas or Toyotas. By Wednesday, Levin had all but given up hope. "Sadly, my car hasn't been

See LEVIN on page 2



A crowd of 300 filled John Jay HS to discuss altering the controversial Prospect Park West bike lane.

## Hundreds vent at bike lane hearing

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Prospect Park West Bike Lane is a miracle solution and a horrific danger, bike lane friends and foes trumpeted at packed hearing last Thursday night. More than 300 people — politicians, second graders, New York Times writers among them — gathered to praise, slam and critique the controversial bike lane

that this week spawned a lawsuit, international coverage and more than a few rifts between neighbors. The hearing amounted to a lane-themed "open-mic night" to vent about everything from a neighborhood culture war ("You people see biking as a religion") to tiny bike lane improvements ("Let's consider rumble strips"), with plenty of anecdotal evidence



on both sides ("I've personally seen five fender benders on this street.") Bike lane advocates — who wore fluorescent stickers —

outnumbered lane opponents by about four to one, with many calling the 19-block strip of cement a Godsend. It makes morning commutes easier, traffic safer and cycling with kids more enjoyable, they said. "The lane encourages us to use our bikes more often and our cars less often," said Alan Esner, who lives on 12th Street. "We get better air quality and exercise."

But opponents suggested the lane was not only unsafe to pedestrians — who risk getting run over by cyclists — but also rarely used. "It's underutilized," said Roz Kochman, who lives on the 15th floor of a building on Prospect Park West. "If you don't believe me, come to my apartment and look out my window."

See BIKE on page 9

## Did the right thing

### Time Warner ditches insiders-only internship

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Media giant Time Warner has abandoned a politically questionable internship requirement — and extended the program deadline — in the wake of criticism from students and mentors in Brooklyn. For months, the company's "Connect a Million Minds" internship included the unusual demand that applicants "provide a letter of recommendation from a member of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus."



It's no wonder. This paper's investigation revealed that members of the minority caucus either didn't know about their role in the process or declined to give letters of recommendation to students who were not connected in some way. "We don't give letters to people we don't know," said Demecia Wooten-Irizarry, chief of staff for Assemblyman Darryl Towns (D-Bushwick). A staffer for Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush) added, "It helps if we know their parents."

This paper's report also raised

questions about the company's ethics, finding that Time Warner had aggressively lobbied Albany lawmakers about "cable television matters" the same year it launched the program. Lawmakers at the time were reviewing whether New York should ditch a contract with a competing telecommunications company called MA/COM that had won a \$2-billion contract with the state. The lobbying apparently paid off: The state cancelled the contract in January, 2009. A Time Warner spokeswoman said the company initially wanted a letter from the politicians "as a way of helping to spread the word." But after our report, the company ditched the requirement, pulling it from the "eligibility" section of its online application, and scrapping a downloadable form that has been posted on its website for months. "We originally listed the letter of recommendation as a requirement based on our partnership with the caucus, but received feedback that these requirements

See INTERNS on page 2



## Hitting the big time

The LIU Blackbirds are going to the NCAA tournament, thanks to the Downtown cagers' heroic overtime win to clinch the Northeast Conference championship last week.

## Flush of history!

### Man wants to turn his outhouse into museum

By Gary Buiso  
The Brooklyn Paper

And you think your backyard stinks. A urban archeologist has refurbished the 19th-century outhouse that came with his Hoyt Street house, and now he's hoping to transform the primitive bathroom into a Boerum Hill tourist attraction. "I've been digging up so many, I ought to have my own outhouse," explained Jack Fortmeyer, 70, who excavates old privies for discarded bottles, ivory-handled toothbrushes and other forgotten relics of city life. Before the advent of indoor plumbing, of course, outhouses were commonplace. But when the modern age of flush toilets began, the pits were typically filled in with household trash — the objects Fortmeyer now covets. So Fortmeyer now plans to place a seat inside the 1849 outhouse, install lighting in the 11-foot-deep pit, then fill it with all the trinkets he's unearthed over the years, creating a subterranean window into our collective past.

See OUTHOUSE on page 2



Retired firefighter Jack Fortmeyer wants to turn the old outhouse in back of his Hoyt Street home into a tourist attraction.

## UFOs over Williamsburg?

### Local activist captures odd lights on camera

By Dan MacLeod  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Here's one for the X-Files. Philip DiPaolo, a family man and respected community activist, says he saw a silently pulsing, moving light floating over his beloved Williamsburg neighborhood last Monday — one year after witnesses saw a similar phenomenon in the same area. DiPaolo, 50, saw the light while walking his dogs around 11 pm. "I got out my camera to use the zoom to see if it was a satellite," the mild-mannered leader of the



Williamsburg civic leader Phil DiPaolo knows what he saw — a bright disc of light above his North Seventh Street home.

New York Community Council told us via e-mail. "I could not figure out what this was. About 10 seconds in, some pulsing image goes across the screen. Very weird!" Weirder still, witnesses reported seeing a similar bright light spinning over Williamsburg several times last winter. DiPaolo's unidentified flying object appeared high in the clear, south sky. It appeared to change color and move, he said. He shot some video of the object, then went inside. When he came back a few minutes later, the airborne anomaly was gone. DiPaolo, who lives on North

See UFOS on page 9

## Grass pains

### McCarren kickball in jeopardy

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

A botched reseeded of McCarren Park's fields could move two Williamsburg baseball teams off

their home fields — and shorten the Brooklyn Kickball League's season by half — The Brooklyn Paper has learned. The Parks Department is



It may be months before the fields are available at McCarren Park.

poised to shut down Gilroy Field off Bedford Avenue this month to plant new grass seedlings, a source confirmed, because seeds planted in November failed to germinate. The field has been off-limits for much of the winter, but the grass has not grown, forcing Parks officials to ramp up their efforts. See GRASS on page 2



# Bike share coming to Brooklyn

**By Gary Buiso**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

What’s good for Barcelona now appears good for Brooklyn.

The city is preparing to search for a vendor to run the borough’s first bike share program — a two-

wheeled rental initiative — a top Transportation official confirmed Wednesday night.

“We’re putting together a request for proposals,” said Borough Commissioner Joseph Palmieri, using the city jargon for the formalized search process.

Palmieri said that Downtown is a key location for the program, but it will be up to the winning bidder to propose the geographic confines of the rental zone.

Cyclists cheered the news, which Palmieri announced at a meeting of the new Boerum Hill Traffic Task Force.

“I welcome it and encourage it,” said Boerum Hill resident and cycling advocate Louie Fleck. “It will encourage people to see the benefits of biking, and it will be a low cost way for people to experiment using a bike as a form of transportation.”

And seasoned cyclists

will benefit, too.

“There are plenty of times when I have the energy in the morning, but not at night, and this would allow me to bike one way and not the other,” Fleck noted.

Already in place in cities such as Paris, Barcelona, Montreal and Denver, the

program relies on a series of locales where bikes are made available for a fee.

In November, the city announced its search for a vendor to run the program in Manhattan, in an unspecified area south of 60th Street, touting technology that has made theft virtu-

ally non-existent in places such as London and Washington, D.C.

The Manhattan proposal called for a system that included stations located every few blocks. The public can buy into a membership plan, and trips longer than 30 minutes would likely be assessed a small charge, as the program is meant for short trips.

“Typically, you use credit cards to gain access to the bikes,” noted Downtown Brooklyn Transportation Coordinator Chris Hrones. “The key is to have enough stations at enough strategic locations that it becomes convenient to make short little trips form here to there,” he said.

The Manhattan project is slated to begin in 2012, and a pilot program will be tested this summer. No date was available yet for Brooklyn’s version.

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## INTERNS...

*Continued from page 1*

might be too limiting, so we are shifting them to a ‘nice to have’ instead of a ‘must have’ requirement,” said company spokeswoman Suzanne Giuliani.

Sen. Eric Adams (D–Park Slope), who said the program has accessibility flaws, was pleased. “It’s commendable that Time Warner has done this. If a program has impediments they should be removed.”

The change only half-satisfied one Brooklyn mentor, whose Brooklyn Tech protégé was disheartened. He said the company should now make a “major effort to publicize the program” and do right by students “who saw the original application form and gave up.”

“What is Time Warner doing to make sure these students [know] that they don’t have to jump through this hoop any more?” he wrote in an e-mail.

## GRASS...

*Continued from page 1*

Calls to the agency were not returned by our evergreen deadline.

If the likely reseeding is undertaken, the Automotive HS football team and the Van Arsdale HS baseball team would be forced to compete on an alternate field in Brooklyn or Queens.

More important, the shortage of grass could also postpone the Brooklyn Kickball League’s season until July—two months after the traditional Opening Day.

Park users have complained about the field’s lack of coverage for much of the decade, and kickball players have endured its

“It’s obvious that Time Warner changed the requirement only because its actions were exposed by this paper. I would be much happier if it issued a statement recognizing that what it did was a cynical ploy to curry favor with politicians and that it won’t happen again.”

Giuliani said she would “look into” the ways in which the company plans to publicize the new requirements.

For now, the extended deadline will suffice. The two-month paid internship is open to technology students who are have a 2.8 GPA or higher.

## LEVIN...

*Continued from page 1*

found yet,” he told concerned community members, admitting that he had even started looking for a replacement.

Yet, in a stunning feat of police work and wheely

good luck, police in the Bronx found the car near Pelham Bay Park on Thursday. They notified the 84th Precinct around 11:30 am, and cops there immediately called Levin.

## OUTHOUSE

*Continued from page 1*

“It’s just going to be a tourist attraction,” he said. “Maybe I’ll start a trend.”

And there’s also a nod, or a shake, to history. But old habits die hard, so Fortmeyer will ensure that no one uses the outhouse as it was origi-

inally intended.

“I know someone will try to use it, because it just seems like the right thing to do,” said Fortmeyer, who quickly added that he’s never relieved himself there.

“In the end, anything is a urinal when you want it to be,” he said.

“It was a very welcome phone call,” he said, even though the police warned Levin that his wheels were looking a little worse for wear.

“It was very funny because they mentioned a number of problems,” he said. “The police said, ‘The bumper is a little messed up; there are dings toward back; the radio is gone; and the handle is messed up.’ I told them, ‘Those are all pre-existing conditions!’”

The “pre-existing conditions” were on full display in the parking lot of City Hall on Friday, where many knew the car well.

“I couldn’t believe it was back,” said Councilman Mark Weprin (D–Queens). “It was the rusted hole on the side that I recognized.”

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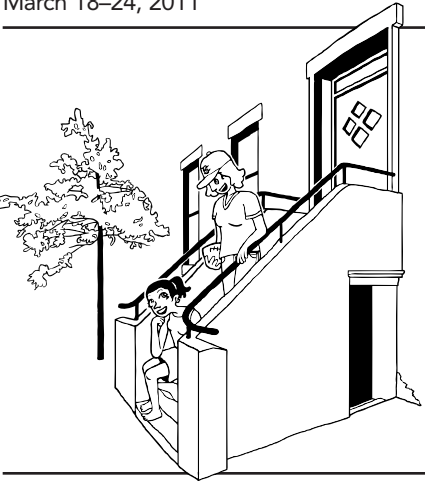
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# THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## FORT GREENE



Long Island University wants to build bleachers at its field along Ashland Place, possibly causing the elimination of parking spaces and a bike lane.

## Town-gown battle at LIU

School wants new fields, but locals want parking

By Laura Gottesdiener  
The Brooklyn Paper

Long Island University and Fort Greene are in a town-gown battle pitting the school's need for athletic space and locals' need for parking spaces.

LIU's Downtown campus wants to expand its cramped fields and add some fan seating along Ashland Place, but the proposal could eat up two dozen spaces just one-half block north of busy Brooklyn Hospital.

"We let them know we were not interested in anything that would eliminate parking — especially right across from the hospital," said John Dew, the chairman of Community Board 2.

Five of Long Island University's teams currently share the lone field, which can be configured for soccer, baseball and other sports and is adjacent to the school's gleaming athletic center along Ashland Place in Fort Greene.

As part of its "Brooklyn Field of Dreams" project, the school would expand the fields 21 feet north onto a 36-foot-wide sidewalk on Willoughby Street between Ashland Place and Fleet Street, and 14 feet east into what is now space for 24 parked cars on Ashland Place.

As a result, a six-foot-wide median on Ashland Place would be eliminated to retain both lanes of car traffic and a bike lane in each direction.

The project would expand the soccer field to be NCAA compliant, add bleachers for up to 1,600 spectators and create a bullpen and a press box for the baseball field.

It would be the first major renovation to the University's athletic facilities since the \$45-million Wellness center opened in January, 2006. The budget for the field expansion is \$25 million, but it needs city approval.

Soccer teams have been especially hampered by the undersized field. The women's team should have hosted the Northeast Conference match twice in the last four years based on its record, but was ineligible due to the field dimensions and went on to lose the away matches.

"If we had been home, absolutely we could have won," said Athletic Director John Suarez.

Community teams, too, have suffered from the sub-par facilities.

"We've hosted high school championship soccer and lacrosse games, but we can't get them to come back," he said. "We should be the place for Brooklyn teams."

## GREENPOINT

## Another homeless shelter proposal

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

A homeless shelter in Greenpoint is back on the table.

A Manhattan-based social services provider wants to operate a 200-bed men's shelter at a McGuinness Boulevard loft building — a plan virtually identical to one withdrawn by another provider last month amid fierce public outcry.

The Bowery Residents' Committee, a 40-year-old housing and homeless services nonprofit, told Community Board 1 of its hopes to operate the shelter two days after news broke that the building had changed hands.

Bowery Executive Director Muzzy Rosenblatt called her group's plan "a



This building on McGuinness Boulevard was once slated to be a homeless shelter. It may still become one.

new assessment facility," and pledged to work with CBI to meet local concerns.

The Bowery Residents' Committee will look to succeed where its rival provider,

## COBBLE HILL

## Towers are movin' on up

Working-class relic becomes market-rate condo

By Gary Buiso  
The Brooklyn Paper

A historic Cobble Hill rental apartment complex built for the 19th-century working class is on the way to becoming homes for 21st-century gentrifiers.

Rental tenants of the Cobble Hill Towers — a rent-stabilized nine-building site built in 1879 as an experiment in humanitarianism — will be offered their units at 30 percent below market rates, but vacant or unbought units will become condo homes for the new bourgeoisie.

The Manhattan-based Hudson Companies, which had been negotiating with tenants since the summer, trumpeted the pricing agreement as a milestone.

"A large group of tenants saw the opportunity to own their own home, in a residence they already know and love," said Hudson principal David Kramer, who said he views the conversion "as the chance for middle-class Brooklyn residents to own their own homes and enjoy the most compelling sales prices in all of Brownstone Brooklyn."

The six-story buildings comprise 188 units facing Warren, Baltic and Hicks Streets. Renters who choose



Built in 1879 to house the working class in decent conditions, the Cobble Hill Towers are now going condo.

not to buy by March 22 can still do so in the future, but at market prices, ranging between \$300,000 for a studio, to \$700,000 for a three bedroom.

Tenants who do not buy in can remain in their rent-stabilized apartments — and Kramer said a strict non-eviction clause is in place to protect their rights.

Some tenants said they can't afford even the discounted asking price.

"The developer is doing what developers do, and that

is to change the balance of the tenancy to their favor, and to do that, they need to move as many people as they can," said one 21-year-resident who requested anonymity.

Tenants said they had no proof of harassment or bullying — but some said that the company has left numerous repairs unresolved, giving preference to newcomers over complex stalwarts.

"They seem to be avoiding as much work as possible," said a renter.

Not true, said Kramer,

who noted that his company has already invested \$2 million in repairs, including improving security with new gates, and renovating the courtyards and lobby areas.

Regardless, renters say that the changes would dismantle the mission of utopian builder Alfred T. White, who set out to show that private developers could build decent housing for the working class and still make a profit.

"This is the last bastion of diversity in Cobble Hill," said one 10-year tenant. "And to take these rent-stabilized apartments out of the housing pool is really harsh."

Former residents agreed.

"The people who live in that building, there's no way they can buy," said Carl Rosenstock, who lived in the complex for 13 years.

But those who opted to buy said it was an offer they couldn't refuse.

"This was probably my only opportunity to buy in Cobble Hill," said Amanda Abry, a market-rate renter in the complex.

"Yes, I might not be the working class they envisioned in 1879, but I'm still someone who's struggling to pay the bills," she said.

## CARROLL GARDENS

## Hole lot of nothing

Court Street development in jeopardy

By Gary Buiso  
The Brooklyn Paper

A cavernous Carroll Gardens development site is in purgatory — and neighbors are mad as hell.

It's already been years since The Collection at Court Street was unveiled, but the future of the seven-story condo and 11 townhouses is in doubt now that The Clarett Group has shuttered its New York office.

Residents said they continue to be dismayed by the project, whose great blue



Debra Laks is upset at the empty hole where the Clarett Group's development is supposed to rise.

wall of fencing "is terrible, a blight, and a waste of space," said Julie Hurwitz, speaking for many neighbors.

On Friday, someone had defaced a sign reading, "Another fine disaster."

But those familiar with the project said that a property this large will not simply be abandoned, and that Clarett's partner, Prudential Real Estate Investors, would see the project through.

"Prudential will get another partner," the person said. "But Clarett still has some skin in the game."

Calls to Clarett's offices in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. were not returned. Prudential did not return a call either.

Clarett abruptly closed its Manhattan office last week, after founder Veronica Hackett left to work for commercial developer Brookfield Office Properties, according to The Real Deal, a blog.

Staff has been leaving the company for the past few months, and in January, the remaining workers were either fired or quit, according to the website, which said that an inability to line up financing for new projects catalyzed a gradual implosion.

Residents weren't surprised that the project is in jeopardy.

"When they knocked down the buildings there, times were good, and we didn't know we were in a recession," said Debra Laks, a longtime Union Street resident.

"But that all came to a grinding halt and now we're stuck with a huge hole in the ground."

She said the hope is that someone comes along to develop the site "hopefully, into something decent."

Neighbors said the project helped give momentum to a rezoning effort to prevent out-of-scale development — even though the project's size conformed to the zoning before and after the change became law in 2009.

The project's foundation has been poured, but little else has happened at the stalled site since project renderings — criticized for their sleek design — were revealed in 2008.

Long Island College Hospital sold the massive property in 2007 for \$23.75 million, a huge sum paid just before the borough's real-estate boom went bust.

The Clarett Group leaves Brooklyn with Forte Tower on Ashland Place in Fort Greene, and the borough's tallest building, The Brooklynier, a 51-story skyscraper located on Lawrence Street in Downtown.

## CLINTON HILL

## Mixed results for 88th robbery squad

By Laura Gottesdiener  
The Brooklyn Paper

The beat cop is back!

The 88th Precinct has created a robbery unit to tackle Fort Greene and Clinton Hill's disturbing 21-percent spike in robberies last year.

Since the unit was deployed two months ago, robberies are down slightly on paper — though criminals appear to be evading the cops by targeting new areas.

Eight people were robbed just last week, and the last month saw 20 robberies, compared to only eight from the same period last year. January's numbers were lower,

but that could be attributed to the cold as much as the new unit.

Police say that this month's spike is caused by the unit pushing crime into new areas.

"You put police resources in one place and it helps the problem," said Inspector Terence Tasso, the precinct's commanding officer. "But the question is: are you combating crime or just displacing it?"

Last year, there were 237 robberies, up from 196 in 2009. Most of the crime occurred on major pedestrian streets south of Fort Greene



The beat cop is back: In the 88th Precinct, cops are hitting the streets to thwart a robbery spike.

Park, so Tasso concentrated his 10-person patrol unit on the four streets: DeKalb Avenue, Lafayette Avenue, Ful-

ton Street and Hanson Place. The unit started on Jan. 21, with cops patrolling the area on foot from 3 to 11 pm — prime travel times for school children and commuters.

But the startling number of robberies last week prompted the 88th Precinct to shift many of the cops to the north and the east.

Starting on Monday, cops will spend more time patrolling the interior of Fort Greene park, DeKalb Avenue near Flatbush Avenue Extension and the outskirts of the Ingersoll and Walt Whitman houses on Myrtle Avenue between St. Edwards Street and

N. Portland Avenue.

A number of the robberies in the last few weeks occurred in or around the park, including a 13-year-old boy who was jumped on the corner of Myrtle and N. Portland avenues right after school dismissal.

Even with the recent spike, there have been 36 robberies since the year began, compared to 40 from the start of 2010.

"You look back a couple of weeks ago, and we were doing a lot better," said Tasso. "This is a work in progress."

Tasso expects the robbery unit to run through June.

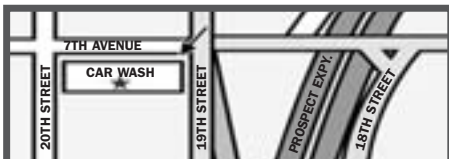
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# Mall rats

## Thieves were rampant at Ratner’s ‘Atlantic’ centers

**By Thomas Tracy**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Most weeks, the Bruce Ratner-owned Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls make one or two appearances in our Police Blotter. Last week, however, the two troubled shopping centers near the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues kept the 88th Precinct especially busy.

Here are the unsavory details:

- A 20-year-old tried to swipe \$6,378 from the Atlantic Avenue Pathmark on March 12, but was arrested after a brief chase.
- The thief was inside the supermarket between Fort Greene Place and S. Portland Avenue at 7:30 am when he saw an employee emptying the self-serve cash registers. He grabbed the money and scooted out the door, only to be apprehended on Dean Street.
- A thief jumped a 15-year-old outside the Atlantic Center mall on March 7, taking his Blackberry cellphone. The teen was heading in-



Thieves were running wild last week at the Atlantic Terminal (above) and Atlantic Center malls.

side when the 3:25 pm robbery took place.

- A sticky fingered hooligan swiped a woman’s wallet on March 8 after bumping into her inside the Atlantic Avenue Pathmark. The victim told police that someone brushed by her at around 6:30 pm, but she didn’t realize her wallet had been lifted until much later.
- A goon snagged a purse from a woman shopping inside the Flatbush Avenue Target on March 12. The victim lost her bag, \$1,500 and several credit cards during the 3:10 pm confrontation.
- A thief plucked a purse from a woman’s shopping cart inside the Flatbush Avenue Target on March 13. The woman left her cart for just a few moments at 11 am — just enough time for the thief to make off with \$60, her wallet and her passport.

# SMOKED OUT!

## Cops bust cigarette runners in Hook

**By Gary Buiso**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Holy smokes!

Cops from the 76th Precinct hit the nicotine jackpot last week after making a routine traffic stop at Hamilton Avenue and Centre Street in Red Hook, discovering a huge cache of illegal cigarettes secreted in the vehicle.

Officers Carlos Achundia and Sam Ouk stopped the 29-year-old driver at around 11:30 pm for failing to signal, and upon routine inspection, found 337 cartons of smokes, according to Capt. John Lewis, the commanding officer of the precinct.

The cigarettes — mostly Newports — have a street value of more than \$40,000 — and an equivalent in-store price tag of \$60,000.

The man was charged with transport-



Officers Sam Ouk, Ronald Periera and Carlos Anchundia snuffed out an illegal cigarette run in Carroll Gardens.

ing unstamped cigarettes and evading tobacco taxes.

“That’s just a great job on their parts,” Lewis said of his cops.

The cigarettes will eventually be destroyed, he added.

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# So much for brotherly love

### 84TH PRECINCT

*Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown*

A thug stole thousands of dollars of fancy electronics from a man he’d met on an online dating site on March 7.

The victim told cops that he invited a man to his Flatbush Avenue Extension home at around 10:30 pm after meeting him on the dating Web site Adam4Adam.com. After the victim had fallen asleep, the bad boyfriend swiped two laptops, an iPod, and iPhone, two watches and \$580 from the apartment, which is between Willoughby Street and DeKalb Avenue.

When the victim woke a few hours later, he realized that he’d been had.

**Bad workout**

A thief swiped a purse and expensive accessories from an athlete’s locker on March 9.

The victim told cops that she locked up her goods in the women’s locker room at the frequently burglarized Planet Fitness on Duffield Street between Fulton and Lawrence streets around 6:40 am.

When she returned from her workout an hour later, the lock was gone, along with her pocketbook, boots, Ray Ban sunglasses, Calvin Klein raincoat, and \$60.

**Silent crime**

A thief swiped headphones from a man on Livingston Street on March 9.

### POLICE BLOTTER

*Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter*

The victim told cops he was walking by Bond Street at 4:43 pm when the perp snatched the headphones and fled.

**Come right in**

A perp waltzed into an unlocked apartment on Columbia Place on March 7, stealing a laptop and a PlayStation game console.

The victim told cops that he left his apartment, which is between State and Joralemon streets, at around 8:15 am, and returned 12 hours later to find his computer and video games gone.

**Take two**

Two apartments in a Willow Street building were burglarized on March 9.

In the first incident, a resident of the building between Cranberry and Orange streets told cops that she left her third-floor apartment at around 7 am and returned at 5:10 pm to find that an air-conditioning unit had been removed, allowing the thief to enter and steal a computer.

An hour and a half later, another resident told cops that his apartment had been burglarized of a cellphone, tie clips and \$80.

**Car tunes**

At least one car was swiped and another burglarized this week:

### 76TH PRECINCT

*Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook*

**Apple hoarder**

A thief burglarized a Warren Street home on March 8, getting electronic goodies.

The 55-year-old victim said he left his house, which is near Clinton Street, at around 6 pm and returned at 10:25 pm to find that his \$2,000 desktop computer and Sony Playstation 3 were gone.

**Not awesome**

A cat burglar stole electronics from a Henry Street home on March 8.

The 39-year-old victim told cops that she left her home, located near Luquer

### 68TH PRECINCT

*Fort Greene–Clinton Hill*

**Robbed in park**

A thug pulled a gun on a man in Fort Greene on March 12, taking \$190.

The victim was sitting on the DeKalb Avenue side of the park near Fort Greene Place at 2:45 pm when the thief approached and flashed his weapon.

**DeKalb dunce**

A 17-year-old goon jumped

### 88TH PRECINCT

*Fort Greene–Clinton Hill*

A woman at the corner of S. Portland and DeKalb avenues on March 9 — only to be arrested seconds later.

The woman was nearing the corner at 7:20 pm when the thief grabbed her.

The woman fell to the ground and started screaming, alerting nearby police.

**Dollar devil**

Five goons beat and robbed a 16-year-old boy for a dollar on March 7 during a harrowing confrontation on St. Edwards Street.

The victim was between Park and Myrtle avenues at 3:30 pm when the thieves punched him in the face and ran off with his Washington.

**Swept away**

A crook robbed a 30-year-old man sweeping outside his Grand Avenue home on March 13.

The thief stormed up to the street sweeper between Greene and Gates avenues at 7:35 am, moments before taking \$25 off his victim.

**Palms up**

Two thieves were arrested on March 13 after they were caught swiping purses and cellphones from distracted Moe’s revelers on Lafayette Avenue.

Cops apprehended the 45-year-old suspect at midnight, moments after he plucked a woman’s handbag off a chair inside the watering hole between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue.

— **Thomas Tracy**

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# More robberies at the mall

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

Thieves were running wild at the Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center last week. Here's what happened:

- A 20-year-old tried to swipe \$6,378 from the Atlantic Avenue Pathmark on March 12, but was arrested after a brief chase.
- The thief was inside the supermarket between Fort Greene Place and S. Portland Avenue at 7:30 am when he saw an employee emptying the self-serve cash registers. He grabbed the money and scooted out the door, only to be apprehended on Dean Street.
- A thief jumped a 15-year-old outside the Atlantic Center mall on March 7, taking his Blackberry cellphone. The teen was heading inside when the 3:25 pm robbery took place.
- A sticky fingered hooligan swiped a woman's wallet on March 8 after bumping into her inside the Atlantic Avenue Pathmark. The victim told police that someone brushed by her at around 6:30 pm, but she didn't realize her wallet had been lifted until much later.
- A goon snagged a purse from a woman shopping inside the Flatbush Avenue Target on March 12. The victim lost her bag, \$1,500 and several credit cards during the 3:10 pm confrontation.
- A thief plucked a purse from a woman's shopping cart inside the Flatbush Avenue Target on March 13. The woman left her cart for just a few moments at 11 am—just enough time for the thief to make off with \$60, her wallet and her passport.

Role reversal

A thief crept into a Lafayette Avenue home on March 9 only to be shown the door by a feisty 85-year-old woman inside.

The senior was alone in her home between St. James Place and Classon Avenue at 5 am when the thief forced open a window.

The burglar began looking for valuables, but quickly had a change of heart when the senior approached him.

"I am not going to hurt you," the man said as the elderly woman ushered him out the door.

Robbed in park

A thug pulled a gun on a man in Fort Greene on March 12, taking \$190.

POLICE BLOTTER

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The victim was sitting on the DeKalb Avenue side of the park near Fort Greene Place at 2:45 pm when the thief approached and flashed his weapon.

**DeKalb dunce**

A 17-year-old goon jumped a woman at the corner of S. Portland and DeKalb avenues on March 9—only to be arrested seconds later.

The woman was nearing the corner at 7:20 pm when the thief grabbed her from behind.

The woman fell to the ground and started screaming, alerting nearby police.

**Dollar devil**

Five goons beat and robbed a 16-year-old boy for a dollar on March 7 during a harrowing confrontation on St. Edwards Street.

The victim was between Park and Myrtle avenues at 3:30 pm when the thieves punched him in the face and ran off with his Washington.

**Swept away**

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The thief stormed up to the street sweeper between Greene and Gates avenues at 7:35 am, moments before taking \$25 off his victim.

**Palms up**

Two thieves were arrested on March 13 after they were caught swiping purses and cellphones from distracted Moe's revelers on Lafayette Avenue.

Cops apprehended the 45-year-old suspect at midnight, moments after he plucked a woman's handbag off a chair inside the watering hole between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue. His 36-year-old accomplice had a cellphone that disappeared off the bar earlier in the evening.

— Thomas Tracy

**90TH PRECINCT**

**Southside—Bushwick**

**Flushing rape**

A thug raped a woman in her Flushing Avenue apartment on March 11 as she tried to take her child to school.

The woman brought her child outside the building near Humboldt Street at 8:15 am, when the perp grabbed her and forced her back into her apartment, saying, "Get in the house—no one is leaving today."

After the rape, the woman was taken to Woodhull Hospital for her injuries.

**Purse grab**

A perp snatched a woman's purse and punched her in the face on Boerum Street on March 11.

The perp followed the woman near Lorimer Street at 7:20 pm, when he knocked her down and stole her stuff.

**L-train robbery**

A perp was arrested after punching and mugging a subway rider on the L train on March 13.

The man was sitting on the Canarsie-bound train at 3:30 pm, when the perp punched him in the face multiple times and took his watch and necklaces.

Police apprehended a suspect later that day.

**Box cut**

Three perps tried to rob a man at Morgan Avenue on March 11 as he left the train station.

The man was near Harrison Place at 8:30 pm, when the three men approached him and one asked, "You got the time?"

The men then tried to remove his wallet, and one perp took out a box cutter and slashed the victim's chest, neck and wrist before they fled.

**Graham crack**

A thief stole a computer

from a Graham Avenue apartment on March 10.

The tenant left his apartment near Boerum Street at 9:30 am, but when he returned at 7 pm, he found his stuff was gone.

**Sneaks sneaked**

Two perps stole six pairs of Nike sneakers from a Hooper Street apartment near S. Second Street on March 10. The tenant returned at 4:25 pm to discover the crime.

**Road report**

At least four cars had problems last week:

- A thief needed only 40 minutes to swipe a Toyota from Borinquen Place on March 10. The owner told cops that she parked the pride of Japan near S. Second Street at 7:45 am, but it was gone when she returned less than an hour later.
- A thief stole a Toyota from Boerum Street on March 11. The car had been parked near Manhattan Avenue at 11 am, but when the owner returned nine hours later, it was gone.
- A thief stole an Oldsmobile from Graham Avenue overnight on March 10. The owner told cops that he had parked near Scholes Street at 6 pm, but by 1 pm the next day, the car was gone.
- A Toyota was lifted from Manhattan Avenue on March 12. The owner told cops that she parked near Boerum Street at 3 pm, but her car was gone the next morning at 10:30.

— Aaron Short

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G to Fulton St./Lafayette Ave.

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LIRR to Atlantic Avenue Terminal

By bus

B25, B26, B52 to Fulton St./Ashland Pl.  
B37 to Fulton St./Flatbush Ave. Ext.  
B38 to DeKalb Ave./Ashland Pl.  
B41 to Livingston St./Flatbush Ave. Ext.  
B54 to Myrtle Ave./Ashland Pl.



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## Tara’s Cross

with Park Slope Author G.J. Bachmann

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### About Tara’s Cross: The Magnificent Sighting

Rescuers pulled George Bachmann, a New York City firefighter from Ten House, from beneath the rubble of the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. He survived the terrorist attacks, but somehow, his memory had been temporarily left behind. As Bachmann recuperated, he knew he needed to remember what had happened and he needed to confront his dreams, which was not an easy task. His mind was privy to an unknown piece of history that drove him to the brink.

In this memoir, Tara’s Cross, Bachmann describes the unimaginable events at Ground Zero. He tells not only of his physical recovery, but also shares the return of his memory through a series of dreams. He reveals the details of the magnificent sighting on West Street where he witnessed the two highest ranking NYC officers saluting each other at the foot of the North Tower before they perished on 9/11.

A tale of survival and salvation, Tara’s Cross is a testament to how the mind and soul heal themselves and how the spirits of the honored dead guide them home. This love story, set against the backdrop of the attacks on the World Trade Center, is also one of courage and recovery.

### About the Author

G. J. Bachmann worked more than twenty-seven years as a New York City firefighter and survived the events of 9/11. He was awarded the World Trade Center Double Star Rescue/Recovery Citation. Bachmann and his wife Annie live in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York, with their daughter Tara Bridget.

www.TarasCross.com



# Cop killed by the boyfriend

## 78TH PRECINCT

### Park Slope

A career criminal pushed a police officer over a stairwell ledge to his death early on March 13.

According to police, Officer Alain Shabarger of the neighboring 84th Precinct responded to a 911 call on St. Marks Place between Third and Fourth avenues at 4:22 am. The cop tried to restrain the perp, but he pushed the cop over the railing. The fall broke the victim’s neck, and he died hours later of his injuries.

### Bad time

A thief snatched a fancy watch from an apartment on Bergen Street on March 11.

The 41-year-old victim told cops he was inside his apartment, near Fifth Avenue, at around 6 pm, when a shadowy figure ran into his home. The stranger swiped his \$400 Bulova watch and \$15, then ran out the front door.

### Biker blues

A clever jerk stole a sweet bicycle from a man on Plaza Street West on March 9.

The 64-year-old victim told cops he used a fancy lock to secure his \$1,300 Cannondale bike to a scaffolding near the Grand Army Plaza subway station at around 2 pm.

When he returned a few hours later, he discovered that someone had unbolted a portion of the temporary structure to steal his ride.

### Pushed down

A thug threw a man to the ground and snatched a bunch of his cash on Ninth Street on March 3.

The 39-year-old victim told cops he was near Fifth Avenue at around 11:10 pm when a man pushed him to the ground, and yelled, “Don’t move!”

The jerk then dug into the poor guy’s left pocket, grabbed \$500 and fled.

### Outback attack

A crook stole a bag of clothes and credit cards from a car on First Street overnight on Feb. 22.

The victim told cops that he parked his 2009 white Subaru Outback on First Avenue at around 6:30 pm, then returned the following afternoon at 1:50 pm.

That’s when he discovered that his blue canvas gym bag, navigation system and two credit cards had been swiped.

## Virginia slimed

A teenager swiped an out-of-towner’s cellphone on Flatbush Avenue on March 10, but barely got to use it.

The 24-year-old victim, who lives in Virginia, told cops that he was on the subway near Seventh Avenue at around 1:50 pm when a not-so-smooth kid snagged his BlackBerry.

Cops arrested the 16-year-old bandit minutes later.

— Natalie O’Neill

## 77TH PRECINCT

### Prospect Heights

### Easter Grinch

A heartless creep snatched some holiday goodies on Sterling Place overnight on March 11.

The 76-year-old victim told cops that she parked her red 1999 Honda Civic near Washington Avenue at 5 pm, then came back the next day at 2:30 pm. That’s when she noticed her newly purchased kid’s booster seat and \$40 worth of Easter baskets were gone.

### Stoop-id move

A thug snatched a bag of cellphones on St. Marks Avenue on March 12.

The 37-year-old victim told cops she set her tote bag on the stoop of her apartment, near Flatbush Avenue, at 2:20 pm, then went inside for 20 minutes. That was enough time for the jerk swiped her bag, which was full credit cards, cellphones and \$100 cash..

### Low rider

A jerk snatched an expensive bicycle rack from a car parked on Park Place on March 11.

The 27-year-old victim told cops he parked his black 2001 Audi near Washington Avenue at around 9 pm then went home to snooze. The cyclist came back at 6:45 pm and found his \$400 Thule bike rack had been jacked.

— Natalie O’Neill

## 68TH PRECINCT

### Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

### Senior scam

Some shady lady stole a purse from a senior citizen at Fourth Avenue and 79th Street on March 4.

The 88-year-old victim told cops that she was walking home from the grocery store at around 3:30 pm when a younger woman approached her and asked for directions.

## POLICE BLOTTER



Find more online every Wednesday at  
**BrooklynPaper.com/blotter**

When the elderly woman turned to point towards a route, the perp grabbed her purse from her shopping cart and fled.

### Gadget grab

Someone broke into a Bay Ridge Avenue apartment on March 6 to steal an impressive collection of electronic gadgets.

The tech-savvy victim told cops that she left her pad,

which is between 68th and 69th streets, at 7 am and returned at 8 pm to find that two laptops, two cameras, three cellphones, a television and an Xbox were gone. The thief also made off with glasses and at least two watches.

### Sticky fingers

A thief broke into a Fourth Avenue apartment on March 10 to steal a diamond ring and a camera.

The victim told cops that she left her crib, which is between 86th and 87th streets, at noon. She returned seven hours later to find her possessions missing, but she didn’t notice any signs of forced entry.

### Colonial caper

Some jerk grabbed a woman’s purse on Colonial Road on March 11.

The victim told cops that she was between 79th and 80th streets at around 7 pm when a 5-foot-6 dude approached her, pointed to her handbag and said, “Give me that.”

He then shoved the woman, snatched her purse and fled.

— Alex Rush

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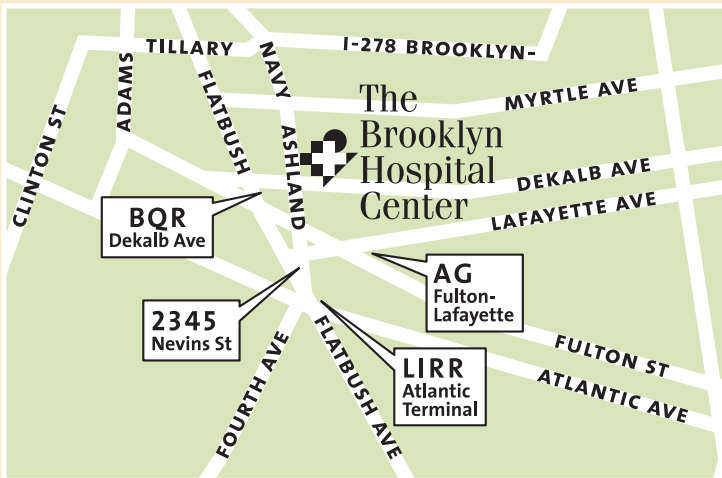
**B, Q, R** to DeKalb Ave. 2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St.  
**A** to Lafayette Ave. from 10:30 pm-6 am  
**G** to Fulton St./Lafayette Ave.

### By Long Island Railroad

LIRR to Atlantic Avenue Terminal

### By bus

**B25, B26, B52** to Fulton St./Ashland Pl.  
**B37** to Fulton St./Flatbush Ave. Ext.  
**B38** to DeKalb Ave./Ashland Pl.  
**B41** to Livingston St./Flatbush Ave. Ext.  
**B54** to Myrtle Ave./Ashland Pl.



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 18–24, 2011



# Spring forward

Mark your calendars for a season of fun

By Meredith Deliso  
The Brooklyn Paper

The snow has melted and the crocuses are sprouting — spring is pretty much here. But that's not the only thing that's arrived. The next few months are chock full of must-see music, art, theater and, of course, outdoor events. And, to help you make the most of it, here's our ultimate guide to the season. Don't leave home without it.

## OUTDOORS Blooming cherries

You know it's spring when the pink, peaceful cherry blossoms bloom at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Officially known as Hanami, the Garden's 220 trees — the largest collection outside of Japan — are expected to start blooming around April 2, reaching their peak around May 1, just in time for Sakura Matsuri, a celebration of Japanese culture, food, dance and music that's always one of the season's biggest bashes.

Hanami at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden [1000 Washington Ave. near Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7200], April 2-May 1. For info, visit [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org).

## Double the flea

After being cooped up indoors all winter, the Brooklyn Flea gets to stretch its legs once again outdoors, with its Fort Greene location at Bishop Loughlin HS opening April 2, and a new Williamsburg location along the East River opening the same day. So there's twice as much vintage finds — and artisanal food — to enjoy.

Brooklyn Flea in Fort Greene [176 Lafayette Ave. between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues, no phone] starting April 2 and Williamsburg [27 N. Sixth St. between Kent Avenue and the East River, no phone] starting April 3. For info, visit [www.brooklynflea.com](http://www.brooklynflea.com).

## Coney central

Coney Island comes alive again on April 16 with the opening of the amusement district, including the debut of the Scream Zone, featuring four new adrenaline-packed rides; the opening of Luna Park, back for a second season of games and rides; and, of course, the Cyclone roller coaster. The first 100 guests ride for free, but at only \$8, it's still one of the cheapest thrills around.

Luna Park [1000 Surf Ave. between 10th Street in Coney Island, (718) 373-5862], opens April 16 at noon, with the Scream Zone opening at 10 am. Cy-



clone [834 Surf Ave. at Eighth Street in Coney Island, (718) 265-2100], opens April 16 at noon. \$8. For info, visit [www.lunaparknyc.com](http://www.lunaparknyc.com).

## Spring fling!

Brooklyn Bridge Park welcomes the season with a spring fling on April 23 to help you take advantage of all the park — and the season — has to offer, including great views, tons of green space and activities for the kids like an egg toss and relay race. Remember, it's for the kids.

Spring Fling at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 [lawn of Pier 1 at the foot of Old Fulton Street in DUMBO], April 23 from 10:30 am-1 pm. Free. For info, visit [www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org](http://www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org).

## Mermaids on parade

Spring's pretty much over by mid-June, but not before the Mermaid Parade takes over Surf Avenue with colorful costumes — or none at all! So now's your chance to fully commit and participate, so start working on those costumes now and looking for inspiration. Topical costumes may have to wait a while.

Mermaid Parade [W. 21st Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 372-5101], June 18 at 2 pm. For info, visit [www.coneyisland.com](http://www.coneyisland.com).

## MUSIC Heir apparent

As the son of Fela, Femi Kuti has a fairly large shadow looming over him. But after multiple albums, he's developed his own distinctive afrobeat voice. Hear how at the Music Hall of Williamsburg

on April 27.

Femi Kuti and the Positive Force at Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400], April 27 at 9 pm. Tickets \$25. For info, visit [www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com).

## Rock on

It'll be hard not to rock out when Phosphorescent stages the stage at Brooklyn Bowl on May 11. Led by Matthew Houck, the alt-country band's live shows have impressed fans world-wide for its raw emotion, passion and a little thing called talent.

Phosphorescent at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], May 11 at 9 pm. Tickets \$10. For info, visit [www.brooklynbowl.com](http://www.brooklynbowl.com).

## Right in tune

Merrill Garbus, the endearing frontwoman tUnE-yArDs, won us over with her compelling debut, "Bird-Brains." We can't wait for her followup, "whokill," out on April 19, with a tour that brings her to the Music Hall of Williamsburg on May 21. Now, about that spelling...

tUnE-yArDs at the Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400], May 21 at 9 pm. Tickets \$13 in advance. For info, visit [www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com).

## THEATER The Scottish play

The Brooklyn Academy of Music is in

On the horizon: (Clockwise from top left) tUnE-yArDs, fronted by Merrill Garbus, comes to the Music Hall of Williamsburg on May 21. The Cyclone opens on April 16. Derek Jacobi takes on "King Lear" at BAM starting April 28. "Black Watch" returns to St. Ann's Warehouse on April 16. Take time to stop and smell the cherry blossoms when the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's cherry blossom season kicks off on April 2.

full Shakespeare mode this season. Fresh off "A Comedy of Errors" this month, the Fort Greene theater turns to tragedy with "Macbeth," as Cheek by Jowl presents a physical, chilling production, complete with the infamous witches, madness and bloodshed, starting April 5.

"Macbeth" at the BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], April 5-16. Tickets \$25-\$70. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## Theater of war

If you missed "Black Watch" the first and second time around at St. Ann's Warehouse, you can stop kicking yourself. The much-acclaimed production from the National Theatre of Scotland about a Scottish Army regiment's view of the war in Iraq, returns to the DUMBO stage starting April 16. Now, don't mess it up this time.

"Black Watch" at St. Ann's Theater [38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, (718) 834-8794], April 16-May 8. Tickets \$55-\$80. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## Good drama

More Shakespeare at BAM! One of the most celebrated theater actors takes on one of the bard's greatest roles when Derek Jacobi stars in "King Lear," a new production from Donmar Warehouse opening April 28. We tend to use the phrase "not to be missed" a lot, but this time, it's an imperative.

"King Lear" at the BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], April 28-June 5. Tickets \$25-\$80. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## FILM

### Serious cinema

Esteemed Times film critic A.O. Scott puts on his teacher hat when he leads "The Holocaust in Film," a lecture series at the Park Slope Jewish Center. The four sessions cover such films as "Shoah," "Schindler's List," and "Inglourious Basterds." See **SPRING** on page 8

## FAIR

# Al Franken!

Aw jeez — Minnesota Sen. Al Franken is coming to Gowanus!

Franken, the bespectacled former "Saturday Night Live" scribe who went onto become the Land o' Lakes' liberal lion will be at the



Bell House on Sunday as part of the venue's "state fair" series, this one feting the Gopher State.

At press time, Franken's office did not return a request for comment.

The event, a recreation of the state fair, will feature all things Minnesotan, including food, drink entertainers, culture, and, of course, food on a stick.

Transplanted Minnesotans said their state and the borough share a lot in common, making the fair a natural fit.

"Some people consider Minnesota to be a fly-over state, but if you come from there, you realize there's an incredible arts, theater and music scene," said Minneapolis-native and Fort Greene resident Sam Utne, co-founder of the Minnesota Culture Club, a group that promotes the state's arts and culture to a nationwide audience.

"And Brooklyn lives in the shadow of Manhattan, so people consider all the culture in Manhattan, but yet we have BAM and the Botanic Garden and Prospect Park. Brooklyn is an amazing cultural center."

You betcha.

Minnesota State Fair at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], March 20 from 3 pm to 7 pm. Admission is free. For info, visit [www.thebellhouseeny.com](http://www.thebellhouseeny.com).

— Gary Buiso

## OPERA

# Creation tale

Issue Project Room is taking a chance on a creation myth.

Dave Nuss, drummer for the improvisational No Neck Blues Band, has spent the last five years working on "Original Innocence," a rock opera written with playwright Eric Sanders that puts a contemporary spin on Adam and Eve.

"It's a new creation myth for our time," said Sanders.

Major departures from that tale include the incorporation of Eastern spiritual concepts of liberation, a more feminist interpretation, where the world-saving sacrifice is performed by a woman, and sin itself championed not as corruption, but salvation.

"It doesn't mean we're advocating some sort of bacchanal love piece. It's a middle way that's being proposed here," said Nuss, who knows something about finding a middle ground with religion — he grew up in a very evangelical Christian community in Corpus Christi, Texas, during the 1980s.

Curator Lawrence Kumps admitted that there "is a bit of a risk," but added that "Issue Project Room should be able to support these projects."

"Original Innocence" at Issue Project Room [232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 330-0313], March 25 at 8 pm and 10 pm. Tickets \$12. For info, visit [www.issueprojectroom.org](http://www.issueprojectroom.org).



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## MUSIC

# Festival fever

Indie-folk rock giants Beirut will headline the third-annual Northside Festival in a four-day music, film and art extravaganza beginning on June 16.

The band will play on the asphalt softball fields at McCarran Park on June 17 — the first time the park has hosted a major concert since its popular pool series closed three years ago.

"It has a 5,000-person capacity and we're very confident we're going to sell out," said Sarah Shanfield of L Magazine, a festival sponsor.

More than 250 bands will rock their way through over 50 festival venues in Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

This year, the bands include Deer Tick, Sharon Van Etten, Twin Sister, Allo Darlin, Ava Luna, Javelin, Delicate Steve and Gabriel and the Hounds.

— Aaron Short

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY  
March 19



Race is on

After such light-hearted fare as "The Drowsy Chaperone," the Gallery Players tackle a play by August Wilson (pictured) from the powerful, Pulitzer Prize-winning "Pittsburgh Cycle," which looked at the course of a century. In the 1970s-set "Jitney," we get an explosive, engrossing look at taxi drivers (and, of course, a gripping musing on race).

8 pm. "Jitney" at The Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101].

MONDAY  
March 21

'Acid' test

The stand-up show, "Ed Sullivan on Acid," has followed Freddy's Bar to its new Park Slope location. Organized by comic Pat O'Shea, the event began as a whacked-out variety show (hence the name), but soon stuck to just comedy, bringing in a handful of up-and-coming comedians each time. Tonight, catch Angry Bob (HBO's "Bored to Death"), among others.

9:30 pm. Ed Sullivan on Acid at Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Park Slope, (718) 768-8131]. Free. For info, visit freddy'sbar.com.



TUESDAY  
March 22



Time to dine

Dine in Brooklyn is underway, ushering in Borough President Markowitz's favorite 10-day feast of three-course dinner menus for \$25, three-course lunches for \$20.11, and even some two-for-the-price-of-one deals (including pork at Marco Chirico's Enoteca on Court, pictured). "Foodies, start your engines," the Beep advised us. (Are they ever off?)

Dine is Brooklyn, March 21–31 at participating restaurants. For info, visit www.visitbrooklyn.org.

THURSDAY  
March 24

Life of Ben

Fort Greene writer Ben Dolnick's second novel, "You Know Who You Are," is out, and it picks up from before where his first book, "Zoology," left off. This time, Dolnick looks at the critical years from ages 8 to 20, with an elegiac coming-of-age story that asks the question, "Does the death of one's mom help or hurt one's changes of getting a girlfriend?"

Ben Donick at Greenlight Bookstore [86 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], March 24 at 7:30 pm. Free. For info, visit www.greenlightbookstore.com.



SATURDAY  
March 26



Meet the mutts

For the second year, the Brooklyn Lyceum is hosting its mixed-breed version of the slightly more famous Westminster Kennel Club show, with categories such as "Best Beard," "Best Ears," and "Softest Coat." This year, there'll also be a "Snook-a-like" contest to see which dog looks most like "Snooki" from "Jersey Shore." How hard is that?

11 am–7 pm. "The Mutt Show" at the Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. near President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816]. Free. For info, visit www.brooklynmuttshow.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MARCH 18

FILM, "MISSISSIPPI MERMAID": As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, "Deneuve," \$12, \$7 members. 2, 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

THEATER, "TREASURE ISLAND": Robert Louis Stephenson's classic pirate tale gets adapted for the stage. \$20–\$45. 7:30 pm. Irondale Center [65 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233], www.irondale.org.

MUSIC, ANNE KEATING AND NOE VENABLE: \$10 adults, \$6 children. 7:30–10:30 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture [53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972], www.bsec.org.

READING, ARMCHAIR/SHOTGUN ISSUE 2 LAUNCH PARTY: Featuring contributing authors Alanna Bailey, Nate House and others. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

THEATER, "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS": Britain's Propeller theater company revs up Shakespeare's comedy to raucous levels. \$20–\$70. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

THEATER, "THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL": Jackie Alexander's play about five generations of African-American men. \$25 (\$15 senior and student discounts). 8 pm. Restoration Plaza [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (212) 209-3370], www.zerve.com/bholidayinc/buster.

THEATER, "BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT": The National Theatre of Scotland returns to Brooklyn with a play about boxing. \$60–\$70. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779], www.stannswarehouse.org.

THEATER, "HAMLET": The Heights



Middle East: You don't have to hop on a plane for the best in Persian theater. Just head to the Brick Theater in Williamsburg for the Iranian Theater Festival, running now through March 26, where you can catch such sultry pieces as "Aviary."

Photo by Samara Nayami

Players do Shakespeare's tragedy. \$15, \$13 for seniors and children under 13. 8 pm. Heights Players [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752], www.heightsplayers.org.

DANCE, "SURFACING": Featuring the work of Spark Movement Collective, VESSEL and Vital Dance. \$15, \$10 students and seniors. 8 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange [421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018], www.bax.org.

THEATER, "DR. FRANKENSTEIN'S MAGICAL CREATURE": Rabbit Hole Ensemble reimagines Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." \$18 (\$15 students and seniors). 8 pm. Old First Reformed Church [729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-8300], rabbitholeensemble.com.

FILM, "THE BEST AND THE BRIGHT-EST": Sneak peak at this outrageous, R-rated farce about getting a child into a New York City private kindergarten. \$10. 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

THEATER, "THE THREE SISTERS": Modern But Classical Theater does Chekhov's drama. \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com.

MUSIC, KARAOKE: Free. Midnight. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

SAT, MARCH 19

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "JITNEY": The Gallery Players do August Wilson's play about the 20th century black American experience. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101], galleryplayers.com.

THEATER, "TREASURE ISLAND": 3 and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

THEATER, "THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL": 3 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

THEATER, "BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT": 4 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

MUSIC, "THE LORD OF THE RINGS — THE CONCERT": The Grand Street Community Band performs music from the JRR Tolkien movie series. Free. 5 pm. Grand Street High School [850 Grand St. between Bushwick Avenue and Waterbury Street in Williamsburg], grandstreetband.org.

THEATER, "THE OTHER MOTHER": Play about the challenges faced by mothers and stepmothers. \$5 (suggested). 7 pm. PS 58 [330 Smith St. at First Pl. in Carroll Gardens, (718) 330-9322], www.bcco.info.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA: Performing works by Sibelius and Grieg. \$15 (\$8 students and seniors). 7:30 pm. Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims [75 Hicks St. at Orange Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 230 5030 X10], www.bcco.info.

THEATER, "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS": 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

MUSIC, LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO: \$40. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION: Performance by the Fauxges plus live band karaoke! \$7. 8 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740], www.therockshopny.com.

THEATER, "AN EVENING WITH GROUCHO": Impersonator Frank Ferrante performs. \$25. 8 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.kingsborough.edu.

THEATER, "HAMLET": 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Franz Liszt with Jeffery Swann, piano. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic [Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083], www.bargemusic.org.

DANCE, "SURFACING": 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

THEATER, "DR. FRANKENSTEIN'S MAGICAL CREATURE": 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

MUSIC, SASHA DOBSON: 8 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, UNION AND THE OTHER

See 9 DAYS on page 8

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# Barbecue brawl

## Sheepshead Bay hosts annual BBQ and grilling contest on March 26

By Alex Rush  
The Brooklyn Paper

Sheepshead Bay may be known more for chicken Kiev than barbecue chicken, but that all changes at the seventh annual Grillin’ on the Bay competition.

On March 26, about 30 teams of both pro and amateur ‘cue enthusiasts from around the United States will compete for the best charcoal- or wood-fired chicken,

ribs and beef in the courtyard of St. Mark School.

“The barbecue scene in Southern Brooklyn stinks, so the contest is a great way to bring in talented grillers from all over the country,” said Sheepshead Bay resident and contest founder Robert Fernandez.

Last year, the Long Island-based Blazin’ Buttz won, but at least one Brooklyn ‘cue contender is vowing to bring home the crown.

“We’re going to win the whole thing this year,” promised Gerritsen Beach resident Jim Ryan of the Beer Belly Porkers team, who placed third at last year’s competition with its shrimp stuffed with basil, Parmesan dressing and dunked in Ryan’s “secret” barbecue sauce (a sweet molasses base with balsamic vinegar and apple sauce). You don’t need to be a veteran pit master to throw down at the cook-off.

The event also features a “Chili



Photo by Steve Solomonson

**Grilled:** The annual Grillin’ on the Bay cook-off returns to Sheepshead Bay on March 26. Try Mark Bernal’s grilled salmon with citrus tarragon, whole grain mustard and sorghum glaze.

DINING

Grillin’ on the Bay at St. Mark’s School [2602 E. 18th St. between Avenue Z and Jerome Avenue in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 332-9304], March 26, 11 am to 4:30 pm. Free admission, though prices vary for the BBQ. Tickets are \$10 for all-you-can-eat chili. For info, visit grillinonthebay.blogspot.com.

Smackdown,” where even casual home-cooks can show off their one pot wonders. Chili Smackdown rules say anything goes, as long as it simmers and comes in a bowl.

“Great chili is so subjective,” Fernandez said. “I like it with meat and peppers, but then there are your bean fanatics, your vegetarian and eggplant lovers and even your chocolate chili devotees. The great thing about the Brooklyn Chili Smackdown is you get to try it all!”

## BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy

61 Local occupies a former carriage house in Cobble Hill.

It serves only locally-produced beer and wine (nothing from further than Pennsylvania).

This self-styled public house has no bar stools.

Instead, all the seating is at communal tables.

So the evening starts like this:

And sometimes ends like this:

Fortunately, the food menu leans heavily towards dishes you can share.

Like the hard cheese plate

Cheddar, goat cheese, and (something I didn't write down)

curried almond crunch

apple slices

Walnut + raisin toast

**61 Local** (61 Bergen St. between Smith Street and Court Street in Cobble Hill). Open Mon–Thu, 6 pm–midnight; Fri, 6 pm–1 am; Sat, 2 pm–1 am; Sun, 2 pm–midnight. For info, visit 61local.com.

# This week’s hottest food dish

Everything’s coming up pad thai (and burgers, of course!) in this week’s roundup of tasty gossip. Plus, the biggest market news this side of the Brooklyn Flea.

**Hip in a box:** More details have emerged about the marketplace that will be built out of recycled shipping containers near the former Albee Square mall in Downtown. Besides the usual lineup of indie vendors (Cuzin’s Duzin, Maharlika, Robert’s, Robicelli’s), the new DeKalb Market will feature a showcase farm, where passerby can learn all there is to know about the life cycle of their rhubarb! The food fun begins in early summer.

**I scream you scream:** We all scream for self-pasteurized ice cream! Ample Hills Creamery, once a popular Park Slope pushcart, is opening a brick and mortar store on Vanderbilt and St. Marks avenues in a few weeks time. The kicker? All of the fun and funky flavors (salted crack caramel, stout ‘n’ pretzels), will be made from a house-pasteurized starter mix of eggs, milk, cream, and sugar. Dig the stationary bike-powered hand-crank mixer!

**One busy Mann:** Brooklyn restaurateur, Ted Mann, will add two new joints to his impressive roster come summer, reports Brooklyn Based. After opening Cubana Social in Williamsburg and No Name Bar in Greenpoint, the Bay Ridge native is setting up shop a little closer to home with Gold Coast, an old-timey deli slated to go up on 86th Street and Third Avenue. Wonder if they’ll name a sandwich after his biological dad, Ted Nugent? Also on the docket — a massive 13,000-square-foot beer garden on 19th Street and Seventh Avenue in



**The social network:** Is DiFara Pizzeria in Midwood taking orders on Facebook?

the South Slope, according to Brownstoner. Prost!

**We ‘like’ this:** Hubbub ensued when word went out that Di Fara pizza might actually be taking orders via Facebook. Serious Eats posted an FB transcript, in which someone from Di Fara wrote, “I do not mind at all allowing orders to be placed via Facebook. The only issue is that I only check in to Facebook a certain time of day and if it’s not placed within that window of time, I may miss it.” Site administrator Margy De Marco Miele later amended the statement, warning that Di Fara’s was incapable of consistently using Facebook as a resource for doing business. Best to suck it up and wait in line.

**Burp on tap:** Our friends at Park Slope Patch broke the biggest food story of the year this week: Root Hill Café on Fourth Avenue now has kombucha on tap.

And of course the two flavors are from Kombucha Brooklyn, the local maker of the most important beverage since coffee.

**Burger bonanza:** The corporate meat patty business is set to take over the world — or at least Park Slope. Residents that shun the beefy allure of Five Guys, Cheeburger Cheeburger, Brooklyn Flipster, Corner Burger or Bare Burger can soon try their tummies at 67 Burger on Flatbush Avenue. Choose your meat then choose your style; “The Southwestern” comes with spicy chipotle mayo, roasted peppers, scallions and jack cheese. Arteries, beware!

**Case of mistaken identity:** Despite a liquor license in the window for “Tessa and Luco,” the old Marius Café spot in Carroll Gardens in about to become Bar Bruno. Carroll Gardens Patch got the early skinny from owner Richard Ampudia, who promises a Mexican-influenced “neighborhood café where you know the waiter’s name and you get a good meal.” Set to open in mid-April, the eatery will offer a full bar, backyard seating, and takeout and delivery service.

**Movin’ on down, from the east side:** Here’s another feather for Brooklyn’s culinary cap; Jamison Blankenship and David Koon, the chef de cuisine and executive sous chef of Manhattan powerhouse, Morimoto, are Prospect Heights-

bound! According to early reports from Eater, the pair have left their star-spangled posts to open an outer-borough ramen shop. It’s only a matter of time before Daniel Boulud realizes BK is where it’s at.

**A farewell to schwarma:** If you can’t take the heat, stay away from the gyro spit. Bay Ridge’s Kebab Factory is all boarded up and covered with signs heralding the coming of Mocha Mocha Coffee. Not a bad use for the space, considering a decent cup of joe is a lot harder to come by in the nabe than a righteous doner kebab. The commuter-happy location, right by the entrance to the 86th Street subway on Fourth Avenue, is equally prime for a morning caffeine fix.

**If at first you don’t succeed:** Bread and Butter may have only lasted a year at 46 Henry St. in Brooklyn Heights, but a new restaurant, Seasons, is ready to try its luck in the location, according to the Brooklyn Heights blog. Expected to open on March 21, the resto sports a contemporary American menu, although we hope Chef Tuhin Dutta plans on bringing a little Indian fare to the party.

**Thai, Thai again:** It was already kind of funny that Ghang, a Thai restaurant on Smith Street, had an identical outpost just one block over on Court Street. Maybe it wasn’t so funny, since the Smith spot has closed, according to our friends at Pardon Me for Asking. Its replacement? Another Thai restaurant, of course! HophAp is keeping the Tom Yum soup and drunken noodles flowing.

Foodie-in-Chief

By Sarah Zorn

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# SPRING...

Continued from page 5

as well as documentaries and eye witness accounts.

“The Holocaust in Film” at the Park Slope Jewish Center [1420 Eighth Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-1453], March 20-April 10, Sundays at 7 pm. Tickets \$20 a session, \$60 for all four. For info, visit [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org).

## Cine Cuba

Check out the latest in Cuban cinema with the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s series “Cine Cuba,” a weekend of new films including Sundance favorite “Boleto al Paraíso.” and an exclusive presentation of the long-unseen film “Los Sobrevivientes” by Cuban master Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

Cine Cuba at the Brooklyn Academy of Music [651 Fulton St. near between Rockwell and Ashland places in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], May 20-22. Tickets \$12, \$7 members. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## ART

### Blow-up art

Get ready for some mega-masterpieces when 3rd Ward hosts its “Inflatable Sculpture Student Show” on March 26. The inflatable sculptures will take over the entire space, from floor to ceiling, as well live music and free drinks!

“Inflatable Sculpture Student Show” at 3rd Ward [195 Morgan Ave. at Stagg Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961], March 26 from 7-10 pm. Free. For info, visit [www.3rdward.com](http://www.3rdward.com).

### Place your bets

Get your fix of art, horses and mint juleps at Smack Mellon’s Kentucky Derby Part on May 7. Bring your most outrageous hat, enjoy some tasty food and leave home with an original work of art. It’s the best Kentucky Derby party outside of Louisville.

Kentucky Derby Party at Smack Mellon [92 Plymouth St. at Wash-

ington Street in DUMBO, (718) 834-8761], May 7 at 4 pm. Tickets \$250 (includes original piece of art). For info, visit [www.smackmellon.org](http://www.smackmellon.org).

### Get Bushwhacked!

The Bushwhack Series returns from June 3-5 for more experimental performance art at the Bushwick Starr. It coincides with the Bushwick Open Studios festival, so there’s that, too.

Bushwhack Series at the Bushwick Starr [207 Starr St. between Wyckoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, (212) 868-4444], June 3-5. Tickets \$12. For info, visit [www.thebushwickstarr.org](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org).

## BOOKS

### Eat with Egan

Hear from one of the most talked-about authors of the past year when “A Visit from the Goon Squad” author Jennifer Egan reads at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on March 31 as part of its “Eat, Drink and Be Literary” series. And now that she’s won the National Book Critics Circle award for the book, the buzz is sure to continue.

Jennifer Egan at the Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], March 31 at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$50 (includes dinner, wine, tax, and tip). For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

### The other book fest

Going on 30 years strong, the Literary Arts Festival returns to City Tech on April 12, headlined by “Push” author Sapphire, reading from her second novel, “The Kid.” Other presenters include the Norwegian jazz/poetry ensemble The Science Fair, and City Tech’s own student and faculty writers.

Literary Arts Festival at City Tech [285 Jay St. at Tillary Street in Downtown, (718) 260-5000], April 12 at 5:45 pm. Free. For info, visit [www.citytech.cuny.edu](http://www.citytech.cuny.edu).

### Dramatic reading

A filmmaker’s and a literary figure’s lives intertwine around drugs, murder and disappearances in Jessica Hagedorn’s savagely funny yet heartbreak-

ing new novel, “Toxicology.” Broadway veteran Kathleen Chalfant gives it an appropriately dramatic reading at the powerHouse Arena on April 19 that’s sure to give chills.

“Toxicology” reading at powerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], April 19 at 7 pm. Free. For info, visit [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com).

## EVENTS

### For the foodies

Get your fill of some of Brooklyn’s best when 25 food and drink vendors unite at DUMBO Loft on April 5 for Tasting Brooklyn. Enjoy samplings from the likes of Fornino Park Slope and the Clover Club, as well as some live cooking demos to help hone your own craft.

Tasting Brooklyn at DUMBO Loft [155 Water St. at Anchorage Place in DUMBO, no phone], April 5 at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$45, \$60 for a 5:30 pm VIP hours.

### Got beef?

It’s all about the beer and beef at the Brooklyn Beefsteak on April 10 at the Bell House, where you get heaping stacks of hot beef cuts, piles of bread, and seemingly endless pitchers of oat soda. Utensils absolutely not included.

Brooklyn Beefsteak at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], April 10 from 1 to 4 pm and 5 to 8 pm. Tickets \$50, \$45 per person for groups of four or more. For info, visit [www.thebellhouseny.com](http://www.thebellhouseny.com).

### Grab a glass

Brooklyn Uncorked returns to the Brooklyn Academy of Music on May 10. Enjoy wines paired with dishes from some of the borough’s best, including Applewood and Buttermilk Channel. It’s a wine tasting without the vineyard, but better food.

Brooklyn Uncorked at the Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], May 10 from 6-9 pm. Tickets \$40. For info, visit [www.ediblemanhattan.com](http://www.ediblemanhattan.com).

# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

**SIDE:** Free. 8 pm. Union Street Star Theater (101 Union St. between Van Brunt and Columbia streets in Columbia Waterfront District, no phone).

**THEATER, “THE THREE SISTERS”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**MUSIC, ALLISON WILLIAMS AND THOMAS BAILEY:** \$10. 9 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], [www.jalopy.biz](http://www.jalopy.biz).

**MUSIC, SOFIA REI:** Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**MUSIC, BABY SODA:** 10 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com).

**MUSIC, M SHANGHAI STRING BAND AND FRIENDS:** \$10. 10:30 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], [www.jalopy.biz](http://www.jalopy.biz).

### SALES AND MARKETS

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am–6 pm. [Court and Montague streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 788-7476], [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** 8 am–4 pm. [70 N. Seventh St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (917) 301-7651], [artistsandfleas.com](http://artistsandfleas.com).

**GREENPOINT/MCCARREN PARK GREENMARKET:** 8 am–4 pm. [Union Avenue between Driggs Avenue and N.12th Street in Greenpoint, (212) 788-7476], [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

**FORT GREENE PARK GREENMARKET:** 8 am–4 pm. [Washington Park between DeKalb and Wil-



Photo by Tonianne Flieg

**The beast within:** Rabbit Hole Ensemble foregoes the familiar green giant in its female-driven retelling of Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” called “Doctor Frankenstein’s Magical Creature.”

loughby avenues in Fort Greene, (212) 788-7476], [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** Brooklyn’s answer to Union Square. 9 am–4 pm. Grand Army Plaza [Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 788-7900], [cenyc.org](http://cenyc.org).

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** More than 100 vendors. 10 am–6 pm. Skylight One Hanson [1 Hanson Pl. at Flatbush Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 230-0400], [www.brooklyn-flea.com](http://www.brooklyn-flea.com).

### OTHER

**TALK, “THE MIDDLE EAST — WHAT HAPPENED?”:** Film screening and discussion. Free. 1 pm. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church [7420 Fourth Ave. at 74th Street in Bay Ridge, (646) 824-5506], [www.panys.org/BR](http://www.panys.org/BR).

**FILM, “TRISTANA”:** As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, “Deneuve.” \$12, \$7 members. 6:50 and 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**ART, WORKS IN PROGRESS:** Exhibits by up and coming artists, musicians and dancers. \$5. 8 pm. Dancewave Center [45 Fourth Ave. at

Dean Street in Gowanus, (718) 522-4696], [www.dancewave.org](http://www.dancewave.org).

## SUN, MARCH 20

### PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**THEATER, “HAMLET”:** 2 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** 3 pm. See Saturday, March 19.

**THEATER, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** 3 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL”:** 4 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT”:** 4 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE THREE SISTERS”:** 5 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**MUSIC, JOHN HEBERT:** 8 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], [www.sycamore-brooklyn.com](http://www.sycamore-brooklyn.com).

### SALES AND MARKETS

**CARROLL GARDENS GREENMARKET:** 8 am–6 pm. [Carroll and Smith streets in Carroll Gardens, (212) 788-7476], [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** 8 am–6 pm. See Saturday, March 19.

**CORTELYOU GREENMARKET:** 8 am–6 pm. [Cortelyou Road between Argyle and Rugby roads in Ditmas Park, (212) 788-7476], [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** 10 am–6 pm. See Saturday, March 19.

### OTHER

**FILM, “THE YOUNG GIRLS OF ROCHEFORT”:** As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, “Deneuve.” \$12, \$7 members. 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**READING, LELA NARGI AND KRYSTEN BROOKER:** Authors of “The Honeybee Man.” Free. 4–5 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com).

**FILM, “THE HOLOCAUST IN FILM”:** The Times’s chief film critic, A.O. Scott, leads this four-week lecture series. \$20 a session, \$60 for the full series. 7 pm. Park Slope Jewish Center [1420 Eighth Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-1453], [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org).

## MON, MARCH 21

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**READING, G.J. BACHMANN:** Author of the 9-11 memoir, “Tara’s Cross.” 6 pm. Barnes and Noble Park Slope [267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9066].

**FILM, “THEM!” AND “THE WILD ONE”:** As part of “An Army of Phantoms,” a series curated by film critic J. Hoberman. \$12, \$7 members. 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

## TUES, MARCH 22

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**WORKSHOP, CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN:** Part of PowerUP business competition. Free. 6 pm. Business Library [280 Cadman Plaza W. at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 623-7000], [www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org](http://www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org).

**READING, BROWNSTONE POETS:** Open mic followed by poets Davidson Garrett and Susanna Rich. Free. 7 pm. Tillie’s [248 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 783-6140], [www.tilliesof-brooklyn.com](http://www.tilliesof-brooklyn.com).

**FILM, “LIZA”:** As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, “Deneuve.” \$12, \$7 members. 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE THREE SISTERS”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

## WED, MARCH 23

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**TALK, SEXISM AND HOMOPHOBIA IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY:** Led by Le Tigre band member Johanna Fateman and director Kerthy Fix. Free. 5 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St., between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200].

**READING, E.I. DOCTOROW:** Author of “All the Time in the World.” Free. 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], [www.book-court.org](http://www.book-court.org).

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL**

**BURNOUT”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE THREE SISTERS”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**MUSIC, ROOTS & RUCKUS:** Night of folk, old-time and blues music. 9 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], [www.jalopy.biz](http://www.jalopy.biz).

## THURS, MARCH 24

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**TALK, ARCHITECTURE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY:** Led by professors from Graduate Architecture and Urban Design. Free. 6 pm. Pratt Institute School of Architecture Higgins Hall [61 St. James Pl. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 636-3600], [www.pratt.edu](http://www.pratt.edu).

**FILM, “SCENE OF THE CRIME”:** As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, “Deneuve.” \$12, \$7 members. 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**READING, UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE:** Authors Christian Hawkey, Ammiri Alcalay and Julian Brodsky. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100].

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**READING, BEN DOLNICK:** Author of “You Know Who You Are.” Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).

**THEATER, “THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “DR. FRANKENSTEIN’S MAGICAL CREATURE”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE THREE SISTERS”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**TALK, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** Post performance with cast members. Free with same day ticket holders. 9:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## FRI, MARCH 25

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**FILM, “MY FAVORITE SEASON”:** As part of the Catherine Deneuve retrospective, “Deneuve.” \$12, \$7 members. 3, 6 and 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**TALK, LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.:** Discussion of his public service and civic engagement. Free. 7 pm. Plymouth Church [75 Hicks St. between Cranberry and Orange streets in Brooklyn Heights], [www.plymouth-church.org](http://www.plymouth-church.org).

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**FILM, “THE INDIAN BOUNDARY LINE” AND “THE MOUNTAIN STATE”:** Includes a Q&A with the filmmaker, Thomas Comerford. \$9 (suggested). 7:30 pm. UnionDocs [322 Union Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], [www.union-docs.org](http://www.union-docs.org).

**THEATER, “THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “DR. FRANKENSTEIN’S MAGICAL CREATURE”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**MUSIC, KARAOKE DANCE PARTY:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com).

## SAT, MARCH 26

### PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, “JITNEY”:** See Saturday, March 19.

**THEATER, “TREASURE ISLAND”:** 3 and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE LEGEND OF BUSTER NEAL”:** 3 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT”:** 4 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 18.

**THEATER, “DR. FRANKENSTEIN’S MAGICAL CREATURE”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 18.

### OTHER

**GRILLIN’ ON THE BAY:** Get your fill of some of the best BBQ around. Free admission (cost varies for food). 11 am–4:30 pm. t. Mark School [2602 E. 18th St. between Avenue Z and Jerome Avenue in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 332-9304], [grillinthebay.blogspot.com](http://grillinthebay.blogspot.com).

**BROOKLYN MUTT SHOW:** Westminster this ain’t, as the borough’s prized pooches will compete in such categories as “Looks most like owner.” Free. 11 am–7 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com).

**“BEER FOR BEASTS”:** Fund-raiser for the Humane Society of New York City, with 16 new brews from Sixpoint. \$60. 1–5 pm and 6–10 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], [www.thebellhouseny.com](http://www.thebellhouseny.com).

**READING, SHERRI EISENBERG:** Author of “Food Lover’s Guide to Brooklyn.” Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100].

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# LINK

Continued from page 1  
\$4 million to the project, plus \$500,000 for the Lakeside Center in Prospect Park.  
Forest City isn't officially involved in that project, but Bender's wife is a member of the Prospect Park Alliance's

Board of Directors, and the couple lives in Park Slope.  
Calls to the Alliance for comment were not returned. The New York Post reported that the Alliance has not received Kruger's would-be donation and don't expect it anytime soon now that Kruger's been arrested.  
Bender had asked Kruger for much more, prose-

cutors say:  
•\$9 million in state money to replace the Carlton Avenue bridge, which was demolished as part of the arena construction.  
•\$2 million for the Four Sparrows Retail Center in Mill Basin.  
•\$4 million for the Lakeside project.  
That's where the haggling

began: Kruger told Bender he couldn't have it all.  
"Kruger told [Bender] that he had to choose what project he wanted to get done because [Bender] was asking for 'about \$12 million worth of projects' and 'they're not all going to get done,'" the complaint states.  
"The bridge is out," Kruger told Bender. "There is \$4

million in total. What do you want done?"  
The news didn't sit well. "This is bad," Bender said, asking Kruger to ask Senate Democratic Conference Leader John Sampson for more money.  
Kruger said there was no more money and asked Bender to put the bridge project of his mind — but in the

casual way close friends often speak to each other.  
"I guess the park, f—k the bridge," Kruger said.  
Bender agreed.  
"I don't mind f—king the bridge, [but] I can't f—k it right now," Bender said. "I need to leverage that bridge."  
Upon hearing that Lipsky was arrested, Forest City fired

the 63-year-old lobbyist.  
"Forest City Ratner Companies appears as an unnamed developer in the complaint because of [Lipsky's] alleged activities and also because our head of Government Affairs had several conversations with the state Senator regarding two projects in Brooklyn," said company spokesman Joe DePlasco.

"The complaint in no way says or suggests that we behaved in an inappropriate manner."  
Forest City has been paying Lipsky \$4,000 a month to help line up legislative support for its many real estate development projects. Lipsky was paid an additional \$2,750 a month to promote Atlantic Yards.

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PARENT

# Why I don't help with homework

As the debates rage on across the country over how much homework is too much, how much is too little, whether kids should have it on the weekends or at all, I as usual stay somewhat inside my little bubble and try to figure what is right for my household.  
I am so lucky, then, that I have no issue with the amount of homework my kids get from their nice little public school around the corner, and that they are learning lessons well enough in class to confidently do the assignments at home themselves. Otherwise, we might have a problem.  
See, I don't help my children with their homework — and don't believe I should.

Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

In fact, unless absolutely pressed into service to offer my signature or a fact of family history, I am basically absent when homework is being done. I ask one question only when books and folders shut for the evening: "Did you finish?"  
If the answer is yes, I am satisfied. They are in charge, not I, and I think that is the point of homework, that the children, not the parents be the ones who do it.  
Sure, I know some square roots, and some of the names of the white men who signed the Declaration of Independence, but the homework is

not mine, but theirs. The point of work outside of school is to teach kids to take initiative, to take responsibility and to keep at things long after they've given up interest. These are life lessons I am still trying to learn, so they are clearly important to practice early on so that they might become habit.  
I am lucky to have a great school around the corner, lucky that my children don't have learning disabilities that would make it a challenge to leave them be. Because of those things, I can — and do — take a back seat.  
When my children whine

about doing their homework, I have had two responses: 1) "That's funny, I always brag how good you are at doing your homework without argument..." 2) "That's totally fine. That's between you and your teacher, so you can just explain to them tomorrow that you didn't want to do it..."  
Both responses assume that my kids take pride in their abilities and respect others outside our home. I fight back my own control-freak instincts to hover and prod because I want to ensure that my children's homework reflects their efforts, not mine.  
I do sometimes feel bad that I have left my children to their own devices — especially when I see other children's outstanding work on the walls of the school.

I wonder about my strategy in those moments, like when Oscar's entry for the "100th Day of School" project — a poster board with 100 paint splashes in 10 different colors — hung sadly next to President Obama's face perfectly formed out of 100 pennies.  
Perhaps I should have gotten involved and showed my kids that sometimes the could work harder on things. But then I remembered my own reasoning for doing what I do: they have to learn to push themselves.  
I try to model hard work in my own endeavors, and point out the benefits of doing so as much as possible to encourage them, but I do not want them to get in the habit of waiting for me to do their own work. If I wanted

them to learn the guitar, I can't play the chords for them, can I?  
It's not just laziness that keeps me from badgering my kids about doing their work, doing extra work, doing the harder thing. It is a conscious effort not to make learning a battle of wills or a fight but a joy. Their education will be a lifelong personal responsibility. If they care now about what they accomplish, the great hope is that they will care later, down the road, when it is not just optional they work independently, it is mandatory. Hopefully now, doing homework alone but with the safety net of me in the other room, silently rooting for them, they can find good lifelong skills to drive themselves.  
One can only hope.

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# KRUGER...

Continued from page 1  
him in the poorhouse.  
Five days after federal authorities announced that the Democrat sold his political clout and government connections for close to \$1 million in payoffs to deep-pocketed lobbyists and developers, the embattled legislator said he's going to keep on fighting for the residents who sent him to Albany.  
"I am here to represent the people of my district," Kruger, who's facing more than \$5 million in fines, repeated to reporters in Albany on Monday during his first public appearance since his arrest last week. "I am here to do my job and that's what I'm doing."  
The frazzled and forlorn Kruger refused to say anything else to reporters save for a carefully constructed comment.  
"I am not going to comment neither on the case nor my personal life."  
US Attorney Preet Bharara says Kruger was in the pockets of small business lobbyist Richard Lipsky; developer Aaron Malinsky, who is currently building the 65-story City Point development in Downtown; and three healthcare providers looking to buy publicly owned hospitals in Brooklyn and Queens — all of whom funneled more than \$900,000 to shell companies set up by Michael Turano, the son of Community Board 18 District Manager Dorothy Turano who was ousted last week as Kruger's "intimate partner."  
According to the FBI complaint filed in Manhattan Federal Court, people looking to gain Kruger's help sent checks to Turano's Olympian Strategic Development Corporation and Bassett Brokerage, a reference to the Mill Island street where Turano, his mother and brother have a multi-million dollar waterfront home that Kruger's bribe money helped pay for.  
In return, Kruger:  
•Greased the wheels so Malinsky could develop the \$65-million Canarsie Plaza Shopping Center on city-owned land at the corner of Avenue D and Remsen Avenue. The anchor store, a BJ's, opened last fall. Malinsky paid Kruger \$472,500 for his efforts, according to court documents.  
•Tried to get Forest City

Ratner Companies, the lead developer on the soon-to-be-built Four Sparrows Retail Center on the southern tip of Flatbush Avenue, to give a portion of the project to Malinsky so he could build a department store on the city-owned site. Investigators allege Kruger set up a meeting between Malinsky and Ratner, then promoted Malinsky's plans to put a small-scale clothing store at Four Sparrows during a recent scouting session.  
•Rallied against Walmart. Investigators say Lipsky funneled \$252,000 from the Food and Commercial Workers Union to Kruger to speak out against Walmart and other big box stores.  
Lipsky also asked Kruger to delay the expansion of a bill that included a five-cent deposit on bottled water, alter the Alcoholic Beverage Control law so grocery stores could begin selling wine and force Indian reservations to collect state sales taxes on cigarettes sold there — acts that would have benefitted his clients.  
"Over a period of years, Sen. Kruger, who represented himself as a full-time legislator, was working overtime for business interests that bribed him to the tune of \$1 million," said Bharara.  
The one-time chair of the powerful Senate Finance Committee looked despondent and close to tears on March 10 as he and Michael Turano surrendered themselves to authorities.  
Kruger, Turano, Lipsky, Malinsky, and four others — including Assemblyman William Boyland Jr., who was allegedly paid more than \$177,000 to secure millions in state funds for Medisys Health Network, which owns Brookdale Hospital in Canarsie — were all released on their own recognizance, but ordered to hand over their passports.  
Kruger's attorney, Benjamin Brafman, who at one time boasted that the FBI was no longer investigating the state senator, said Kruger was "saddened" by the charges.  
"He's one of the most dedicated public servants for the last 25 years with an impeccable reputation," Brafman told reporters. "This is obviously a difficult day for all of us."  
But the hits kept on coming for Kruger: Senate Mi-

State Sen. Carl Kruger said he would not resign, despite the charges against him.

nority Leader John Sampson (D—Canarsie) announced last week that he's removed Kruger from the Senate Finance Committee, where he was considered a ranking member and earned a \$20,500 yearly stipend on top of his \$79,500 base salary.  
At the same time, political insiders were declaring Kruger's legislative career dead on arrival.  
"I looked at the complaint and there's some heavy stuff here," said one local politico, who wished not to be named. "There's no question that he's going to lose his Senate seat. The only question is if he's going to jail."  
But the FBI investigation doesn't just cast Kruger in a negative light. Michael Turano is also facing more than 20 years in prison and Dorothy Turano, who has not been charged, is implicated in at least one attempt to steer a development project Kruger's way, so her role as district manager could be in jeopardy.  
Federal prosecutors wouldn't comment if they plan to charge Turano criminally for helping Kruger, but said they were looking into seizing the Bassett Avenue manse as well as a Bentley belonging to one of the Turano brothers, since money from Michael Turano's dummy companies helped pay for both.  
The investigation also revealed a personal relationship between Kruger and Michael Turano — something Kruger kept hidden, but political insiders had been chin-wagging about for years.  
The complaint alleges Kruger "had an intimate relationship with" Turano.  
With the recent arrests, Bharara has now criminally charged eight state lawmakers within five years — a staggering number.  
But Bharara doesn't think Albany will clean up its act anytime soon.  
"We are up to our eyeballs in corruption work," he said. "Every time we arrest a state senator or assembly member, it should be a jarring walk-up call, but instead it seems that no matter how many times the alarm goes off, Albany hits the snooze button. When prosecutors charge politicians, it shouldn't feel like a scene from 'Groundhog Day,' yet it does."  
News of Kruger's arrest — and intimate relationships — sent shockwaves throughout Southern Brooklyn.  
"I was taken totally by surprise," said Sol Needle, Community Board 18's current chairman. "I had no clue that any of this was going on. I'm shocked."  
Councilman Lew Fidler (D—Mill Basin) was also stunned by the news but came to the defense of his fellow legislator.  
"Carl Kruger, just like any American, is entitled to a presumption of innocence," Fidler explained, dispelling rumors that he's a contender for Kruger's Senate seat. Other possible replacements whispered included Igor Oberman, a Russian-born attorney who ended up abandoning a campaign against Kruger last year, and Democratic District Leader and former Assemblyman Frank Seddio.  
Yet Seddio, a Kruger sympathizer, says he isn't looking to replace the senator, either.  
"You stand by your friends," Seddio said. "If that is something that would hurt me, so be it. But Carl Kruger is going to fight this tooth and nail."



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BROOKLYN PAPER CLASSIFIEDS

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Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

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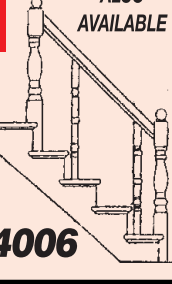
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